

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 15. (canceled)

16. (original) A mentation test apparatus comprising: a display means for displaying images by electronic control; a transparent touch panel overlaid on the screen of the display means; an image control means for randomly disposing and displaying a given number of targets to be pointed in a prescribed order on the screen by controlling the display means, and for erasing the targets that have been pointed in a correct order when a test subject points the target by pressing the position corresponding to each target on the touch panel in a prescribed order; a time counter for measuring the search response time required for the test subject for searching the targets in a correct order, and/or the search response time required for the test subject for searching a given number of targets arranged in a sequential order, and a processing means for calculating the mentation of the test subject based on the search response time measured by the time counter.

17. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the image control means comprises a function for allowing the display means to display the dummy targets at the positions where the targets have been erased or at random positions in place of the targets that have been erased.

18. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the image control means comprises a function for allowing the display means to display the dummy targets being different in at least one of the color, shape and size in place of the targets that have been erased.

19. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to any one of Claims 16 to 18, wherein the image control means comprises a function for allowing the display means to display the marks indicating the order of pointing as the targets or in addition to the targets, and for allowing the display means to display the marks other than the marks that have been already displayed as dummy targets in place of the erased targets at the positions of the targets that have been erased or at random positions, or in addition to the positions of the targets that have been erased or in addition to the randomly displayed dummy targets.

20. (currently amended) The mentation test apparatus according to any one of Claims 16 to ~~[[19,]]~~ 18 wherein the image control means comprise a function for allowing the display means to display each target that has not been pointed yet by changing its display position every time when the other targets have been pointed in a correct order.

21. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 16 comprising a function for allowing the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target having a different color at the position of the target in place of the target that has been erased; a function for allowing the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions in place of the target that has been erased; a function for allowing the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target has been pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions in place of the target that has been erased, while allowing the display means to display each target and dummy target by changing their display positions; and a selection means for making any one of the functions effective, wherein the mentation age of the test subject's brain is calculated by the processing means based on the search response time measured by the time counter in the test using each function.

22. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the search response time of each target measured by the time counter in each test after completing the entire tests.

23. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 21 or 22, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the mentation age of the test subject's brain calculated by the processing means after completing the entire tests.

24. (original) The mentation test method according to Claim 16 comprising: an image control means for executing, in a prescribed order, the test 2 by allowing the display means to erasing a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target on the screen at random positions in place of the target that has been erased, and the test 3 by allowing the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions on the screen in place of the target that has been erased, while allowing the display means to display each target and dummy target by changing their display positions; a processing means for calculating the degree of contraction of the search response time by a working memory for parallel processing of search and

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memory of positions based on the search response time of each target measured by the time counter in each test; and a diagnosis means for diagnosing presence of dementia or prediction probability of onset of dementia based on the calculation results.

25. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the search response time for each target in each test measured by the time counter after completing the entire tests.

26. (original) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 24 or 25, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the results of diagnosis by the diagnosis means after completing the entire tests.

27. (currently amended) The mentation test apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 16 to 26 comprising a printer for printing the test results.